

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**State Higher Education Commission Adopts Two Major Reports on Student Transfer and New Degree Programs at California's Public Colleges and Universities**

*July 1, 2005* — Sacramento — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has just approved two major reports, *Student Transfer in California Postsecondary Education* and *Commission Review of New Academic and Vocational Programs Proposed by the Public Higher Education Systems, 2004-2005*. These reports are designed to provide critical data and analysis needed by public policy makers and education administrators.

“As more and more students are utilizing the community college system, it is essential that our transfer function work effectively and efficiently,” stated Chairman Howard Welinsky. “In addition, our colleges and universities are stretching to provide more degree programs that are responsive to the needs of the state’s evolving economy. These reports provide policy makers with the tools to make sound planning decisions on new degree programs and transfer policies.”

- *Student Transfer in California Postsecondary Education* addresses the State’s ability to accommodate future enrollment growth. As the state has become more diverse, greater numbers of students from low-college-going populations have sought entry to higher education through the State’s community college system. More than 60,000 students transfer to the California State University or the University of California every year, with an additional 5,000 to 6,000 who transfer to one of the State’s independent institutions. This report provides a summary of existing state policies and programs and recommends a number of steps that should be taken to ensure that the transfer function continues to provide equitable access to all students who desire to work toward a four-year degree. [www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2005reports/05-08.pdf](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2005reports/05-08.pdf)
- *Commission Review of New Academic and Vocational Programs Proposed by the Public Higher Education Systems, 2004-2005* reviews proposals for new degree and certificate programs, discusses major policy issues and implications, and proposes an enhanced model for the evaluation of joint doctoral programs. It also provides a discussion of alternative doctorate awarding authority as proposed in current legislation, Senate Bill 724. [www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2005reports/05-07.pdf](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2005reports/05-07.pdf)

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov).